

Judge Mason's Notification

Albert Miller Lea

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

Recommended Citation

Lea, Albert M. "Judge Mason's Notification." *The Annals of Iowa* 29 (1948), 477-478.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.6683>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

Annals Addenda . . .

JUDGE MASON'S NOTIFICATION

George W. Jones was nominated as a candidate for delegate to congress from that part of Michigan Territory not included in the new state of Michigan, by Augustus C. Dodge at a meeting held at Mineral Point, Iowa county, Wisconsin, in May 1835. The election was held on the first Monday of October following, and it was the first election to a national office covering what is now the state of Iowa. Colonel Jones was in Burlington, and long afterwards mentioned with pride that of the two hundred and more votes polled there only six were against him, his principal competitor being James D. Doty of Green Bay. Jones was elected and took his seat upon the assembling of congress, December 7, 1835.

He was both active and popular in the territory, and when the Iowa district was to be set apart in 1838, into a territory bearing that name, there was quite general desire that he be named as the first territorial governor. Being in touch with what was transpiring at Washington he was among the first to learn of the appointments for positions in the new territory.

The following letter from Lieut. Albert Miller Lea, a friend and confidant, the original being in the files of the Manuscript division of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, apprised Judge Charles Mason of his appointment as chief justice, the information coming through Colonel Jones:

Baltimore, June 12, 1838.

Charles Mason, Esq.
Burlington, Wis. T.

Dear Sir: Gen. Geo. W. Jones passed through this city last evening on his way to Phila. & N. York. In a hurried conversation with him, he requested me to say to you that you were appointed Chief Justice of the new Territory of Iowa—Salary \$1,500

—nomination not yet acted on—Jones says you may be certain—
He named you to the President.

Allow me to congratulate you upon your promotion; & to express the hope that your truly noble abilities may be justly appreciated in your adopted country. I shall probably have the pleasure of seeing you at Burlington in the next month.

I am unable to inform you of any other appointments for Iowa; but we are given to understand that although every body has recommended Jones, he will not be appointed Governor. It has been offered to General Jesup, & refused. It is to offered to Gen. Atkinson, & will be rejected. Who will next be selected is not known.

Not having been to Washington, & not yet having seen the Organic Law, I can tell you little more of what has been done; but I learn the Law is very similar to that for Wisconsin.

It is eminently desirable that our country [the Iowa district] should be brought into market as soon as possible. Many people of fixed & substantial character would now emigrate to that region could they get titles to their lands. Yet I learn that there is no time in contemplation for the opening of the Land offices.

Very respectfully & truly yours,

ALBERT MILLER LEA

BUTLER'S REBUKE TO IOWA

One of the incidents to which the late Curator Edgar R. Harlan enjoyed referring was in connection with the Historical department's extensive collection of works of Iowa authors, and directly concerned Iowa's popular and well known Ellis Parker Butler, with whom Harlan had a personal acquaintance.

As he tells it, the credit for the oft quoted last couplet in the verses appearing below belongs to Butler, who included them in a penned reply to a letter from Harlan asking for a free copy of one of his books concerning which he related:

"A few years ago we began collecting data on those of Iowa origin who are contributing to American literature. It was requested of each that he send us, in autograph, the data of his birthplace, his titles and all the facts which

Copyright of *Annals of Iowa* is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.